

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EARTH SCIENCE WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the nineteenth century, Merriwether Lewis and William Clark explored the western reaches of our expanding country. As they explored my home region of the Pacific Northwest, Lewis and Clark cataloged the mineral and natural resources of the land. In particular, they spoke of a mighty river known to the local inhabitants as Nch'i Wana, the Great River. We know it today as the Columbia River and its importance as a reliable source of water and power to the people of the Pacific Northwest is undeniable.

When Twentieth Century American explorers embarked on a similar journey to explore the Moon, one of their earliest actions was to bend down to the surface and pick up a rock. That simple movement framed an ancient reflex that underscores the basic imperative to explore our surroundings. Today, I want to recognize the important role played by the earth sciences in expanding our economy, supporting our national goals, and increasing our knowledge of the larger world.

Modern geophysical research reveals that ours is a dynamic planet. On the Earth's surface, great tectonic plates shift continental positions with terrific force. On the ocean's surface, microscopic plants and animals help regulate global atmospheric gases and serve as the foundation of our planet's food web. In the deep ocean abyss, mysterious and wondrous animal communities thrive in endless darkness by deriving life-sustaining nutrients from active volcanic vents.

Earth science is a global science that speaks a global language and unites people by promoting sustainable development. The study of earth science provides the skills necessary for locating and utilizing natural resources, understanding natural processes that often conflict with human designs, and comprehending our natural heritage through the unusual perspective of geologic time. The unique panorama of geologic time allows us to observe the full range of natural processes on Earth and aids in developing a comprehensive view of the natural world beyond a perspective limited only to that of human influence.

In my home state of Oregon, we celebrate the land and respect the power of nature. We have learned to protect our citizens and expand our economy by working with nature and prudently mitigating natural hazards. In consideration of the importance of the earth sciences in the daily lives of all Americans, I submit, for the RECORD, the resolution issued by the Association of American State Geologists.

The resolution follows:

Whereas the earth sciences are fundamental to society; and

Whereas the earth sciences are integral to finding, developing, and conserving mineral,

energy, and water resources needed for society; and

Whereas the earth sciences promote public safety by preparing for and mitigating natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sinkholes, and coastal erosion; and

Whereas the earth sciences are crucial to environmental and ecological issues ranging from climate change and water and air quality to waste disposal; and

Whereas geological factors of resources, hazards, and environment are vital to land management and land use decisions at local, state, regional, national, and international levels; and

Whereas the earth sciences contribute critical information that enhances our understanding of Nature,

Therefore, be it resolved that the second full week of October henceforth be designated as Earth Science Week.●

DR. BOB LEFTWICH

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the exemplary efforts of Dr. Bob Leftwich, a school counselor in Ellijay, Georgia. Over the past years, Dr. Leftwich has worked with students in his area by talking to them about life and their futures. In his discussions, he has urged students to be the very best they can be and to make firm commitments to excellence.

Dr. Leftwich is a prime example of a hero in my book. He is a committed advocate for young people and the freedoms they can achieve through hard work and perseverance.

It is people like Bob, with the motivation he brings to our students, who will be remembered when these students are the leaders of our great nation. They will no doubt look back and remember the impact that this individual had on their lives. And hopefully they will follow his lead by getting involved with young people themselves.

Once again, Mr. President, I would like to thank Dr. Leftwich for his dedication to excellence. His work should serve as an encouragement to others to become more involved with the education of our nation's youth.●

NEBRASKA GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize seventeen outstanding young Nebraska women who have been honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement award a U.S. Girl Scout can attain.

The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishment in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. This year's winners completed projects such as creating a multicultural mural at a local school; cleaning, rust-proofing, and painting bathhouses at Two Rivers State Park; and building a large scale doll house that will teach independent living skills to children at the Hattie B. Munroe Center. The Nebraska recipients were honored by the Great Plains Girl Scout Council in Omaha, Nebraska.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over two and a half million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girls Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. The Gold Award represents the culmination of the achievement of many goals.

I would today like to honor these Nebraskans for their exceptional efforts in attaining the Gold Award: Megan Rachel Adams, Alyssa Ann Arthur, Gina R. Dowis, Elizabeth Ann Holland, Melody E. Jones, Sara Anne Jones, Kjirsten R. Kellogg, Stefanie Kudera, Tera R. Maeder, Katie Michalski, Stephanie Jane Patton, Kelly Peters, Marie Roscoe, Melissa Jo Scurlock, Elizabeth A. Sigler, Karianne Sis, and Samantha Waterman. I salute them for their significant service to their community and our country.●

NELSON MANDELA CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to make a few comments regarding the passage of H.R. 3156 late yesterday. This bill authorizes the President to present, on behalf of Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal to Nelson Mandela. I am very pleased that the Senate has acted swiftly to pass this legislation.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor that the United States Congress may bestow on a civilian. This prestigious award has been bestowed on a variety of people whose leadership and lives have left an indelible impression on our great nation. President Mandela is without a doubt, one of those persons who has earned our recognition through his leadership in the quest for freedom and equality.

His ongoing struggle for such noble causes has carried the people of South Africa into a new era. And, his compassion for the downtrodden has been felt around the world uplifting all people suffering from oppression.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the ranking member of the Senate Banking Committee, Senator SARBANES for his efforts in seeing this legislation through the Senate in an expedited manner. I would also like to thank Congressman HOUGHTON for first introducing this bill, H.R. 3156, in the House and for all of his hard work and leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO ED WILLIAMS

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Ed Williams of Valdosta, Georgia, a man who has dedicated more than three decades of his life to bringing a Veterans Clinic to the Valdosta area. His dreams and hard work were realized with the April 28, 1998 opening and dedication of the new Valdosta Veterans Health Care Clinic.

Ed is one of the few survivors of the original group of veterans who began working to bring a veterans clinic to Valdosta 35 years ago. I commend and